

Meal Pattern for Children

Child and Adult Care Food Program

	Children 1 through 2 years	Children 3 through 5 years	Children 6 through 12 years
BREAKFAST			
Milk, fluid	1/2 cup	3/4 cup	1 cup
Juice, fruit or vegetable	1/4 cup	1/2 cup	1/2 cup
Grains/Breads:			
Bread - whole-grain, bran, germ or enriched	1/2 slice	1/2 slice	1 slice
Cereal - cold, dry	1/4 cup ¹	1/3cup ²	3/4 cup ³
- hot, cooked	1/4 cup	1/4 cup	1/2 cup
SUPPLEMENT (SNACK) (Select 2 components)			
Milk, fluid	1/2 cup	1/2 cup	1 cup
Meat/Meat Alternate ⁴	1/2 ounce	1/2 ounce	1 ounce
Juice, fruit or vegetable	1/2 cup	1/2 cup	3/4 cup
Grains/Breads:			
Bread - whole-grain, bran, germ or enriched	1/2 slice	1/2 slice	1 slice
Cereal - cold, dry	1/4 cup ¹	1/3cup ²	3/4 cup ³
- hot, cooked	1/4 cup	1/4 cup	1/2 cup
LUNCH OR SUPPER			
Milk, fluid	1/2 cup	3/4 cup	1 cup
Meat/Meat Alternate:			
Meat, poultry, or fish cooked (lean meat without bone)	1 ounce	1-1/2 ounce	2 ounces
Cheese	1 ounce	1-1/2 ounces	2 ounces
Egg	½	¾	1
Cooked dry beans /peas	1/4 cup	3/8 cup	½ cup
Peanut butter, soy nut butter or other nut or see butters	2 tablespoons	3 tablespoons	4 tablespoons
Peanut or soy nuts or tree nuts or seeds	1/2 ounce ⁵ = 50%	3/4 ounce ⁵ = 50%	1 ounce ⁵ = 50%
Yogurt	4 ounces or 1/2 cup	6 ounces or 3/4 cup	8 ounces or 1 cup
Vegetable or fruit (combination of 2 or more)	1/4 cup total	1/2 cup total	3/4 cup total
Grains/Breads (whole-grain, bran, germ or enriched)	½ slice	½ slice	1 slice

¹ 1/4 cup (volume) or 1/3 ounce (weight), whichever is less.

² 1/3 cup (volume) or 1/2 ounce (weight), whichever is less.

³ 3/4 cup (volume or 1 ounce (weight), whichever is less.

⁴ 4 ounces (weight) or 1/2 cup (volume) of plain or sweetened and flavored yogurt may be served to fulfill the equivalent of 1 ounce of the meat/meat alternate component. For younger children, 2 ounces (weight) or 1/4 cup (volume) may fulfill the equivalent of 1/2 ounce of the meat/meat alternate requirement.

⁵ This portion can meet only one-half of the total serving of the meat/meat alternate requirement for lunch or supper. Nuts or seeds must be combined with another meat/meat alternate to fulfill the requirement. For determining combinations, 1 ounce of nuts or seeds is equal to one ounce of cooked lean meat, poultry or fish.

Meal Pattern for Infants Child and Adult Care Food Program

	Birth through 3 months	4 months through 7 months	8 months through 11 months
BREAKFAST			
Breast Milk or Iron Fortified Infant Formula ⁶	4-6 fluid ounces ⁷	4-8 fluid ounces ²	6-8 fluid ounces ²
Iron Fortified Dry Infant Cereal	----	0-3 tablespoons ⁸	2-4 tablespoons
Fruit and/or Vegetable	----	----	1-4 tablespoons
SUPPLEMENT (SNACK)			
Breast Milk or Iron Fortified Infant Formula ¹ or 100% Fruit Juice ⁹	4-6 fluid ounces ²	4-6 fluid ounces ²	2-4 fluid ounces ²
Bread or Crackers ¹⁰	----	----	0-1/2 slice bread or 0-2 crackers ³
LUNCH OR SUPPER			
Breast Milk or Iron Fortified Infant Formula ¹	4-6 fluid ounces ²	4-8 fluid ounces ²	6-8 fluid ounces ²
Fruit and/or vegetable	----	0-3 tablespoons ³	1-4 tablespoons
Iron Fortified Dry Infant Cereal and/or	----	0-3 tablespoons ³	2-4 tablespoons ¹¹
Meat, Fish, Poultry, Egg Yolk, or Cooked Dry Beans or Peas or	----	----	1-4 tablespoons ⁶
Cheese or	----	----	1/2-2 ounces ⁶
Cottage Cheese or	----	----	1-4 ounces ⁶ (volume)
Cheese Food, or Cheese Spread			1-4 ounces ⁶ (weight)

⁶ Breastmilk or formula, or portions of both, may be served; however, it is recommended that breastmilk be served in place of formula from birth through 11 months.

⁷ For some breastfed infants who regularly consume less than the minimum amount of breastmilk per feeding, a serving of less than the minimum amount of breastmilk may be offered, with additional breastmilk offered if the infant is still hungry.

⁸ A serving of this component is required when the infant is developmentally ready to accept it.

⁹ Fruit juice must be full-strength and may be served in place of formula or breastmilk to children ages 8 through 11 months of age for snack only.

¹⁰ A serving of this component must be made from whole-grain or enriched meal or flour.

¹¹ At least one of these items must be served for lunch and supper.